

The Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for call admission in communication systems, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an incoming call, the incoming call representing one of a plurality of call types comprising voice calls, and non-voice calls that can use a facility;
 - admitting the incoming call for using the facility as a function of the call type of the incoming call;
 - determining an amount of bandwidth available for voice as a function of a number of non-voice admitted calls;
 - 10 updating a count of a number of voice calls currently admitted, when the admitted incoming call is a voice call; and
 - dynamically varying a block-dropping threshold parameter as a function of the available voice bandwidth.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the admitting step includes the steps of:
 - (a) associating with each call type a call bandwidth; and
 - (b) admitting the incoming call if the call bandwidth of the incoming call is not greater than a spare bandwidth that is associated with the facility for use by the incoming call.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of identifying the call type of the incoming call prior to performing step (b).
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of blocking the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) further includes the step of reducing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of increasing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method for call admission in a packet communications system which provides access to at least one virtual circuit, wherein incoming calls represent ones of a plurality of call types comprising voice calls and non-voice calls, the method comprising the steps of:

5 determining the call type of an incoming call; each call type having an associated bandwidth;

admitting the incoming call to use the virtual circuit as a function of the call type of the incoming call;

10 determining an amount of bandwidth available for voice as a function of a number of non-voice admitted calls;

updating a count of a number of voice calls currently admitted, when the admitted incoming call is a voice call; and

dynamically varying a block-dropping threshold parameter as a function of the available voice bandwidth.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of blocking the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein step of admitting the call further includes the step of reducing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of increasing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method for call admission in a packet communications system which provides access to at least one virtual circuit, wherein incoming calls represent ones of a plurality of call types comprising voice calls and non-voice calls, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 determining the call type of an incoming call; each call type having an associated bandwidth;
- admitting the incoming call to use the virtual circuit as a function of the call type of the incoming call;
- 10 determining an amount of bandwidth available for voice as a function of a number of non-voice admitted calls;
- responsive to the admitted call, providing a stream of ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) packets for conveying information associated with the admitted call; and
- responsive to the stream of AAL2 packets, providing a respective stream of ATM cells for transmission over the virtual circuit;
- 15 updating a count of a number of voice calls currently admitted, when the admitted incoming call is a voice call; and
- dynamically varying a block-dropping threshold parameter as a function of the available voice bandwidth.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of blocking the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the admitting step includes the step of reducing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of increasing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Claims 19-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) Call-admission apparatus for use in a packet communications system which provides access to at least one virtual circuit, wherein incoming calls represent ones of a plurality of call types comprising voice calls and non-voice calls, the apparatus comprising:

5 a call classifier for determining the call type of an incoming call; each call type having an associated bandwidth and for admitting the incoming call to use the virtual circuit as a function of the call type of the incoming call;

10 a processor responsive to the admitted call for providing a stream of ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) packets for conveying information associated with the admitted call; and

a processor responsive to the stream of AAL2 packets for providing a respective stream of ATM cells for transmission over the virtual circuit;

15 wherein the processor responsive to the admitted call updates a count of a number of voice calls currently admitted, when the admitted incoming call is a voice call, determines an amount of bandwidth available for voice calls and dynamically varies a block-dropping threshold parameter as a function of the available voice bandwidth.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the call classifier blocks the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the call classifier reduces the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the call classifier increases the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Claims 32-34 (Cancelled)